



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2014

By the time you receive this issue of *The Guardian*, summer vacation will be at hand for us, and it will be the last issue of this school year. We hope you have enjoyed reading our articles as much as we have enjoyed writing them, for it is truly a privilege to do so. Now June, the month of the Sacred Heart, is here, marking the beginning of the end for us. That is, the beginning of summer break and the end of the school year. But before too long, we will be back at the seminary, preparing to delve into yet another year of school.

The past month of May was full of events for us and, needless to say, we kept very busy. Besides wrapping up school, we hosted a Vocations Weekend for several boys and shortly after went on our annual end-of-the-year camping trip. On the day prescribed, we had a Rogation procession during which we chanted the Litany of the Saints as we walked around the seminary grounds. By doing this, we plead to Our Lord for spiritual blessings, for protection from natural disasters, and many other things. This part of the liturgy was handed down to us by tradition.

All through summer vacation there will be the ongoing war of keeping the grass at bay. This job, since we won't be at the seminary, will fall into the capable hands of Fr. Anthony until our return. We all, including the teachers, are looking forward to this well-deserved break. It is necessary to refresh the mind and body every once in a while, because, although we have a well-rounded schedule, it gets monotonous after nine months. We are grateful to our cooks and teachers who worked along with us diligently all the year long and we know that God will

reward them abundantly for their efforts. We are also very grateful toward our benefactors, not only for their temporal donations, but also for spiritual contributions. Please continue to pray for both our spiritual and educational advancement, and we wish you a very blessed and happy summer!

The chores of our soul

by Vincent Prado, gr. 10

There I stood, so triumphantly gazing upon the grassy slopes of the seminary. The once tall and thick blades of grass were now reduced to miniature height. The frail, tiny, green sprigs did not stand a chance at the hands of the unforgiving weed-whacker. But as I stood there and continued pondering about how wonderful it all looked, I realized that all the grass would, in but a short spell, grow back. Thus, the mowing would have to be redone once more, and many times thereafter. But I also realized something else.

Every day we wage a personal war with sin and temptation. The soul must conquer the flesh. It must constantly

June calendar

- 5 — School program and awards ceremony
- 6 — Last day of school
- 7 — Bishop's visit and Confirmation
- 22 — Corpus Christi procession
- 27 — Feast of the Sacred Heart; Benediction and Act of Reparation

curb the passions of the body and mind. Although temptation is sometimes ineluctable it can always be repelled. We must always keep a sharp eye on our thoughts and actions.

The grass represents our passions, and the weed-whacker is the work of the spirit against the flesh. As the weeds of passions are beginning to grow once more, they are cut down by the weed-eater of the spirit. But just as the weed-whacker needs gas to function, so must the soul feed on graces and prayer in

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The grounds around the seminary provide a scenic backdrop for the Rogation procession.

The chores of our soul

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order to wage this war on our lower nature. The sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Penance give us a river of graces to combat temptation. And just as the machine needs someone to wield it, so our soul needs the aid of God and of the Blessed Virgin in order to cut down the weeds of our soul. We may fall sometimes and injure ourselves, but we must always return to the firm plant of our feet.

Temptations can arise from ourselves, such as thoughts, but they most often come in the form of persons, places, and things. Bad companions can easily lead us into sin with their actions or words. Places can be sources of sin, such as movie theaters which show indecent movies or casinos which cause gambling problems. Forms of technology can also lead to offense against God. But computers, TVs, and radios are not bad in themselves; rather, it is the devil and the individual's decision that cause them to be used for sin.

We must be armed to the teeth with the weed-eater of grace and prayer in order to win this fight. If we keep at it long enough, we will eventually gain victory over our passions.

An enjoyable misadventure

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 11

The rugged wilderness encompassed us entirely, the even more rugged road twisting, curving, rising and falling before and after us. On either side were the foreboding, dense trees surrounded by thick, green underbrush. The sky had been blotted out by huge, dark storm clouds which threatened to rain down on us at any moment. We, the seminarians and two friends (who probably wouldn't have come along had they known the discomforts to which they would be subjected) bumped along the rocky path in the truck with Fr. Anthony at the steering wheel, deftly weaving through the forest down the perilous path. It was like a haunted roller coaster ride. The greenery got greener, and the tension to which we were victims grew more tangible. But nothing happened. We painfully, uneventfully jolted down the path at a creeping rate. This was our end-of-the-year camping trip.

I suppose that, upon arrival at our campsite, many of us thought of falling upon the ground and kissing it, vowing never again to part our feet from the earth to climb into a truck. But the hour of our coming was late, no thanks to the GPS, and the clouds above our heads threatened even more vehemently to rain. So, we set up camp as quickly as possible. We had not quite finished before the rain began to fall however, and we endeavored now to light a fire. Yes, in the rain. But Fr. Anthony came to the rescue, and pulled out his "rocket-stove." Contrary to what the name suggests, it is not a dangerous weapon. It is a fire-producing contraption that looks more like a metal bucket than anything. Thus we called it the "hobo-stove." Over the "hobo-stove" we cooked our

hamburgers and enjoyed our dinner while the rain soaked our camp.

It rained almost all night (half of us could testify to the fact on account of it preventing our sleep), and in the morning it was still cloudy. We shuffled around and forced ourselves into wakefulness about the campfire, telling each other horror stories concerning our struggle for sleep during the night. Then, after morning prayers, we set up for Mass in one of our tents. After Mass had been celebrated, we felt refreshed and at peace. And upon leaving the tent in which Mass had been celebrated, we were surprised to find that our campsite had undergone an amazing metamorphosis! The sun had come out giving our surroundings a dazzling beauty that we hadn't noticed before. The wide river shimmered and the woodlands all around us glowed a radiant green.

With a surge of joy we hastily made breakfast and then set forth onto the river in our canoes. As with anything, our canoe ride turned into a competition and we soon found ourselves racing each other down the river until we realized just one small problem: we would have to paddle all the way back *upstream* to get to the camp. The sun climbed higher and once we were turned homeward, our competition changed into a struggle for survival against the slow but constant current flowing against us. Needless to say, when we arrived at the campsite, our arms felt like rubber.

Finally at the end of the day, we packed up our camp and were ready to leave, thankful for the good weather and an enjoyable outing. At about five o'clock in the afternoon, we left our campsite with a thoroughly content crew and began our journey back to the seminary.

The most important virtue of summer

by Dominic Pulliam, gr. 10

Here we are in the month of June and summer is here! What are we going to do this summer? Well, there are a lot of things that we can do during summer like getting a summer job, swimming, hiking, and a bunch of other things that will make this summer a memorable one.

But summer is not just fun and games. It's the time to be the strongest in your faith, be mindful of your surroundings and especially keep guard of your EYES!

They say the eyes are the idyllic camera. By this I mean that whatever you see will turn into a picture and stay in your mind forever. Also, the eyes are the window of your soul, which means that whatever you see could be an occasion of sin and can do major harm to the soul. But how can we confront this issue? Well, it's not going to be easy since we have our fallen human nature which tends to make us want to look at everything. We can dominate this tendency by mortifying our eyes.

In this day and age there is a lot of impurity and when I say a lot I mean a LOT! This impurity comes in many various forms — in games, pictures, Internet, impure dress, and even

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During the Vocations Weekend, our visitors enjoyed playing pool.



There was plenty to keep the boys busy after the spiritual conferences in chapel were over.



A dozen boys from the area came for our Vocations Weekend in May.



Jordan spends a lot of time at the piano creating his own music.



Campground chores on our recent camping trip.



What would a camping trip be without a good campfire!



Dominic checks to see how the cooking is coming along.



The seminarians and staff of St. Joseph Seminary.

The most important virtue of summer

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when you just take a stroll down the block, there might be someone dressed indecently. There are many occasions of sin during the summer. But this is where mortification can and does come in handy whether it be of the eyes, feet, hands, mouth and even ears.

One of the many ways that we can avoid this dilemma is by either looking away as fast as possible when there is an impure picture or something of that category, or if it be on the computer ask your parents to block that site or wherever it came from. It is also good to be always doing something productive. It can be building, playing sports, going to church, or even just reading a book. It's always good to be distracted away from sin. Personally, I think that the summer (besides all the good things) is when Satan can best bring souls to ruin by the allurement of all the terrible and impure things.

This, my friends, is why we must keep guard and be alert for all the things that may seem like something enjoyable but what might actually be a weapon of the devil. So may God bless every one of you and I hope you have a good summer and keep your eyes safe.

Unrequited love

The lovely month of Mary yields to the month of the Sacred Heart. During June we recall those wonderful promises of Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary, in which the Sacred Heart pours out His love for us. Here at the seminary our practice of this devotion includes the daily recitation of the Litany of the Sacred Heart.

But what exactly do we mean by practicing *devotion* to the Sacred Heart of Jesus? To answer that question, we must understand that there are two main points upon which this devotion rests. The two pillars which support this devotion are *love* and *reparation*. Anyone who wishes to understand the devotion to the Sacred Heart ought to reflect on these two words and understand what they entail.

Charity, or love, as St. Paul tells us, is the greatest of the virtues. This virtue is so important to God, that He regards more with how much love we perform our actions, rather than how much we do. Even a small act of sacrifice or obedience is greatly pleasing to God, when performed from the motive of love of God. On the other hand, great and heroic actions which proceed more from self-love or pride, will have little or

Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.

Do You Have a Vocation?

If you are a young man of high school age who has a vocation, then St. Joseph Seminary may be the place for you. Our four-year course of studies offers the regular high school curriculum, with an emphasis on Latin, theology, choir and foreign language. A well-rounded program of daily Mass, prayer and sports complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.

no merit in God's eyes. Consequently, we must strive to love God ever more and more, for Our Lord wishes to be served more from love than fear.

Reparation, on the other hand, is the fruit of love. It means that, understanding how much the Sacred Heart is offended by men, we want to console Our Lord, to make up to Him for the love that is withheld by so many. We see how much Jesus craves this loving reparation in His words to St. Margaret Mary: "Behold this Heart which loves men so much, but is so little loved in return." How tragic that is! Reparation means that we are grieved that the love of Jesus is not better known and appreciated. We would wish to bring the whole world to the feet of Our Lord. Many souls are ungrateful and even unmindful of the love of Jesus for them, but we, at least, are resolved to love Him with our whole heart and to make up, as far as we can, for those who do not love Him.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus bless each of you and your loved ones, especially with a greater love for Him. And may He generously reward your support of our seminary. Please continue to pray for more vocations.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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